

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05982 200055Z  
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-01 NSCE-00 SS-07 SSO-00

SAB-01 /023 W

-----110945 200059Z /72

O R 200024Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 3281  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PANAMA 5982

FOR ARA/PAN, S/AB, AMB BUNKER

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (THURMOND, HATCH, HELMS)

SUBJECT: SENATORS THURMOND, HELMS, HATCH PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SENATORS THURMOND, HELMS AND HATCH HELD A BRIEF SESSION WITH THE PRESS THIS AFTERNOON AT FOUR IN THE PANCANAL ADMIN BUILDING. BILLED AS A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE THREE MADE BRIEF STATEMENTS, RESPONDED TO ONLY ONE QUESTION AND ADJOURNED THE AFFAIR AFTER LESS THAN TEN MINUTES TO THE CONSTERNATION OF THE ASSEMBLED US AND PANAMANIAN PRESS INCLUDING FILM CREWS FROM ABC, CBS AND CHANNEL 4 OF PANAMA.  
EACH OF THE THREE STATEMENTS WAS CONCILIATORY, ALMOST APOLIGETIC. EACH SENATOR VOICED HIS WELL-KNOWN ANTI-TREATY POSITION, BUT COUCHED HIS OPPOSITION IN DELICATE TERMS SO AS TO NOT OFFEND PANAMANIAN SENSITIVITIES. ALL SPOKE HIGHLY OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE. THURMOND SAID HE WOULD FAVOR INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR PANAMA WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED WITHOUT THE TREATY IN QUESTION, AND ALSO STRESSED THAT "NO SENATE VOTE AGAINST THE TREATY WOULD BE A VOTE AGAINST PANAMA."

3. RESPONDING TO ONLY ONE QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR,  
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HELMS DENIED THAT THE TRIP HAD BEEN PLANNED AS AN ANTI-TREATY PUBLICITY STUNT. SENATOR HATCH IN HIS STATEMENT SAID THAT MOST OF THE LABOR LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAD MET, BOTH U.S. AND PANAMANIANS, WERE OPPOSED TO THE TREATY BECAUSE IT DID NOT DEAL ADEQUATELY WITH LABOR ISSUES. AS HE WAS LEAVING THE BUILDING HATCH TOLD REPORTERS HE HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH PRESIDENT LAKAS

DURING THE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE JUST PRIOR TO THE PRESS  
CONFERENCE.

JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, CANALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PANAMA05982  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770300-1072  
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**Office:** ACTION H  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1540873  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SENATORS THURMOND, HELMS, HATCH PRESS CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** OREP, SOPN, EWWT, PN, (THURMOND, STROM), (HATCH, ORRIN G), (HELMS, JESSE A)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009